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(54) Title: ALL PURPOSE LIQUID CLEANING COMPOSITIONS

(57) Abstract: A hard surface liquid detergent with desirable cleansing properties comprises an anionic surfactant, a nonionic surfactant, a solubilizing agent, a solubilizer and water.

ALL PURPOSE LIQUID CLEANING COMPOSITIONS

Field of Invention

This invention relates to an all purpose liquid cleaning composition designed in particular for cleaning hard surfaces and which is effective in removing particu-
5 lar and grease soil in leaving unrinsed surfaces with a shiny appearance.

Background of the Invention

This invention relates to an improved all-purpose liquid cleaning composition designed in particular for cleaning hard surfaces and which is effective in removing
10 grease soil and/or bath soil and in leaving unrinsed surfaces with a shiny appearance.

In recent years all-purpose liquid detergents have become widely accepted for cleaning hard surfaces, e.g., painted woodwork and panels, tiled walls, wash bowls, bathtubs, linoleum or tile floors, washable wall paper, etc.. Such all-purpose liquids comprise clear and opaque aqueous mixtures of water-soluble synthetic organic
15 detergents and water-soluble detergent builder salts. In order to achieve comparable cleaning efficiency with granular or powdered all-purpose cleaning compositions, use of water-soluble inorganic phosphate builder salts was favored in the prior art all-purpose liquids. For example, such early phosphate-containing compositions are described in U.S. Patent Nos. 2,560,839; 3,234,138; 3,350,319; and British Patent No. 1,223,739.

20 In view of the environmentalist's efforts to reduce phosphate levels in ground water, improved all-purpose liquids containing reduced concentrations of inorganic phosphate builder salts or non-phosphate builder salts have appeared. A particularly useful self-opacified liquid of the latter type is described in U.S. Patent No. 4,244,840.

However, these prior art all-purpose liquid detergents containing detergent
25 builder salts or other equivalent tend to leave films, spots or streaks on cleaned unrinsed surfaces, particularly shiny surfaces. Thus, such liquids require thorough rinsing of the cleaned surfaces which is a time-consuming chore for the user.

In order to overcome the foregoing disadvantage of the prior art all-purpose liquid, U.S. Patent No. 4,017,409 teaches that a mixture of paraffin sulfonate and a

reduced concentration of inorganic phosphate builder salt should be employed. However, such compositions are not completely acceptable from an environmental point of view based upon the phosphate content. On the other hand, another alternative to achieving phosphate-free all-purpose liquids has been to use a major proportion of a mixture of anionic and nonionic detergents with minor amounts of glycol ether solvent and organic amine as shown in U.S. Patent NO. 3,935,130. Again, this approach has not been completely satisfactory and the high levels of organic detergents necessary to achieve cleaning cause foaming which, in turn, leads to the need for thorough rinsing which has been found to be undesirable to today's consumers.

Another approach to formulating hard surfaced or all-purpose liquid detergent composition where product homogeneity and clarity are important considerations involves the formation of oil-in-water (o/w) microemulsions which contain one or more surface-active detergent compounds, a water-immiscible solvent (typically a hydrocarbon solvent), water and a "cosurfactant" compound which provides product stability. By definition, an o/w microemulsion is a spontaneously forming colloidal dispersion of "oil" phase particles having a particle size in the range of 25 to 800 Å in a continuous aqueous phase.

In view of the extremely fine particle size of the dispersed oil phase particles, microemulsions are transparent to light and are clear and usually highly stable against phase separation.

Patent disclosures relating to use of grease-removal solvents in o/w microemulsions include, for example, European Patent Applications EP 0137615 and EP 0137616 - Herbots et al; European Patent Application EP 0160762 - Johnston et al; and U.S. Patent No. 4,561,991 - Herbots et al. Each of these patent disclosures also teaches using at least 5% by weight of grease-removal solvent.

It also is known from British Patent Application GB 2144763A to Herbots et al, published March 13, 1985, that magnesium salts enhance grease-removal performance of organic grease-removal solvents, such as the terpenes, in o/w

microemulsion liquid detergent compositions. The compositions of this invention described by Herbots et al. require at least 5% of the mixture of grease-removal solvent and magnesium salt and preferably at least 5% of solvent (which may be a mixture of water-immiscible non-polar solvent with a sparingly soluble slightly polar solvent) and at least 0.1% magnesium salt.

However, since the amount of water immiscible and sparingly soluble components which can be present in an o/w microemulsion, with low total active ingredients without impairing the stability of the microemulsion is rather limited (for example, up to 18% by weight of the aqueous phase), the presence of such high quantities of grease-removal solvent tend to reduce the total amount of greasy or oily soils which can be taken up by and into the microemulsion without causing phase separation.

The following representative prior art patents also relate to liquid detergent cleaning compositions in the form of o/w microemulsions: U.S. Patents No. 4,472,291 - Rosario; U.S. Patent No. 4,540,448 - Gauteer et al; U.S. Patent No. 3,723,330 - Sheflin; etc.

Liquid detergent compositions which include terpenes, such as d-limonene, or other grease-removal solvent, although not disclosed to be in the form of o/w microemulsions, are the subject matter of the following representative patent documents: European Patent Application 0080749; British Patent Specification 1,603,047; and U.S. Patent Nos. 4,414,128 and 4,540,505. For example, U.S. Patent No. 4,414,128 broadly discloses an aqueous liquid detergent composition characterized by, by weight:

- (a) from 1% to 20% of a synthetic anionic, nonionic, amphoteric or zwitterionic surfactant or mixture thereof;
- (b) from 0.5% to 10% of a mono- or sesquiterpene or mixture thereof, at a weight ratio of (a):(b) being in the range of 5:1 to 1:3; and
- (c) from 0.5% to 10% of a polar solvent having a solubility in water at 15°C in the range of from 0.2% to 10%. Other ingredients present in the formulations disclosed

in this patent include from 0.05% to 2% by weight of an alkali metal, ammonium or alkanolammonium soap of a C₁₃-C₂₄ fatty acid; a calcium sequestrant from 0.5% to 13% by weight; non-aqueous solvent, e.g., alcohols and glycol ethers, up to 10% by weight; and hydrotropes, e.g., urea, ethanolamines, salts of lower alkylaryl sulfonates, up to 10% by weight. All of the formulations shown in the Examples of this patent include relatively large amounts of detergent builder salts which are detrimental to surface shine.

Furthermore, the present inventors have observed that in formulations containing grease-removal assisting magnesium compounds, the addition of minor amounts of builder salts, such as alkali metal polyphosphates, alkali metal carbonates, nitrilotriacetic acid salts, and so on, tends to make it more difficult to form stable microemulsion systems.

U.S. Patent 5,082,584 discloses a microemulsion composition having an anionic surfactant, a cosurfactant, nonionic surfactant, perfume and water; however, these compositions do not possess the ecotoxicity and the improved interfacial tension properties as exhibited by the compositions of the instant invention.

A number of patents teach esterified ethoxylated glycerol compounds for various applications. These patents are Great Britain 1,453,385; Japan 59-1600 and Japan 58-206693 and European Patent Application 0586,323A1. These publications fail to appreciate that a mixture of esterified ethoxylated glycerol and nonesterified ethoxylated glycerol, when used in a hard surface cleaning composition, functions as a grease release agent.

Summary of the Invention

It has now been found that an all purpose hard surface liquid detergent which has desirable cleaning properties can be formulated with an anionic surfactant, a nonionic surfactant and a solubilizer.

An object of this invention is to provide an all purpose hard surface liquid detergent composition comprises a sulfate and/or sulfonate anionic surfactant, a nonionic surfactant, a solubilizing system and water, wherein the composition does not

contain any N-alkyl aldnamide, zwitterionic surfactant, silicas, abrasives, alkali metal carbonates, alkaline earth metal carbonates, alkyl glycine surfactant or a cyclic imidinium surfactant.

Additional objects, advantages and novel features of the invention will be set forth in part in the description which follows, and in part will become apparent to those skilled in the art upon examination of the following or may be learned by practice of the invention. The objects and advantages of the invention may be realized and attained by means of the instrumentalities and combinations particularly pointed out in the appended claims.

10 Detailed Description of the Invention

The all purpose hard surface liquid compositions of the instant invention comprises approximately by weight:

- (a) 0.1% to 5%, more preferably 0.25% to 3% of an alkali metal or alkaline earth salt of an anionic surfactant;
- 15 (b) 0.1% to 6%, more preferably 0.25% to 3% of a nonionic surfactant;
- (c) 0.1% to 2% of a solubilizer selected from the group consisting of Polysorbate 80 and PEG30 castor oil and mixtures thereof;
- (d) 0.1% to 4% of perfume, essential oil, a water insoluble organic compound such as an ester or a water insoluble material such as terpene or essential oils; and
- 20 (e) the balance being water.

The instant compositions do not contain an N-alkyl aldnamide, choline chloride or buffering system which is a nitrogerious buffer which is ammonium or alkaline earth carbonate, guanidine derivates, alkoxylalkyl amines and alkyleneamines C₃-C₇ alkyl and alkenyl monobasic and dibasic acids such as C₄-C₇ aliphatic carboxylic diacids which do not contain a hydroxy group, phosphoric acid, amino alkylene phosphonic acid and the composition is pourable and is not a gel and the composition has a complex viscosity at 1 rads⁻¹ of less than 0.4 Pascal seconds.

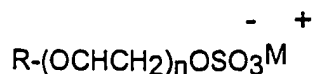
The anionic sulfonate surfactants which may be used in the detergent of this invention are water soluble and include the magnesium, sodium, potassium,

ammonium and ethanolammonium salts of linear C₈-C₁₆ alkyl benzene sulfonates; C₁₀-C₂₀ paraffin sulfonates, alpha olefin sulfonates containing about 10-24 carbon atoms and C₈-C₁₈ ethoxylated alkyl ether sulfates and mixtures thereof. The preferred anionic sulfonate surfactant is a sodium salt of a C₁₂-14 alkyl benzene sulfonate.

5 The higher alkyl mononuclear aromatic sulfonates, such as the higher alkylbenzene sulfonates containing 9 to 18 or preferably 9 to 16 carbon atoms in the higher alkyl group in a straight or branched chain. A preferred alkylbenzene sulfonate is a linear alkylbenzene sulfonate having a higher content of 3-phenyl (or higher) isomers and a correspondingly lower content (well below 50%) of 2-phenyl (or lower) isomers, such as those sulfonates wherein the benzene ring is attached mostly at the 3 or higher (for example 4, 5, 6 or 7) position of the alkyl group and the content of the isomers in which the benzene ring is attached in the 2 or 1 position is correspondingly low. Preferred materials are set forth in U.S. Patent 3,320,174, especially those in which the alkyls are of 10 to 13 carbon atoms.

15 Examples of suitable other sulfonated anionic detergents are the well known. The paraffin sulfonates may be monosulfonates or di-sulfonates and usually are mixtures thereof, obtained by sulfonating paraffins of 10 to 20 carbon atoms. Preferred paraffin sulfonates are those of C₁₂-18 carbon atoms chains, and more preferably they are of C₁₄-17 chains. Paraffin sulfonates that have the sulfonate group(s) distributed
20 along the paraffin chain are described in U.S. Patents 2,503,280; 2,507,088; 3,260,744; and 3,372,188; and also in German Patent 735,096. Such compounds may be made to specifications and desirably the content of paraffin sulfonates outside the C₁₄-17 range will be minor and will be minimized, as will be any contents of di- or poly-sulfonates.

25 The C₈-18 ethoxylated alkyl ether sulfate surfactants have the structure



wherein n is about 1 to about 22 more preferably 1 to 3 and R is an alkyl group having about 8 to about 18 carbon atoms, more preferably 12 to 15 and natural cuts, for

example, C₁₂₋₁₄ or C₁₂₋₁₆ and M is an ammonium cation or a metal cation, most preferably sodium.

The ethoxylated alkyl ether sulfate may be made by sulfating the condensation product of ethylene oxide and C₈₋₁₀ alkanol, and neutralizing the resultant product.

- 5 The ethoxylated alkyl ether sulfates differ from one another in the number of carbon atoms in the alcohols and in the number of moles of ethylene oxide reacted with one mole of such alcohol. Preferred ethoxylated alkyl ether polyethenoxy sulfates contain 12 to 15 carbon atoms in the alcohols and in the alkyl groups thereof, e.g., sodium myristyl (3 EO) sulfate.

- 10 Ethoxylated C₈₋₁₈ alkylphenyl ether sulfates containing from 2 to 6 moles of ethylene oxide in the molecule are also suitable for use in the invention compositions. These detergents can be prepared by reacting an alkyl phenol with 2 to 6 moles of ethylene oxide and sulfating and neutralizing the resultant ethoxylated alkylphenol.

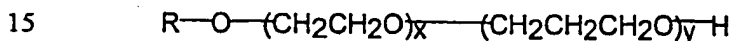
- The nonionic surfactants used in the instant compositions include the
15 condensation products of a higher alcohol (e.g., an alkanol containing about 8 to 16 carbon atoms in a straight or branched chain configuration) condensed with about 4 to 20 moles of ethylene oxide, for example, lauryl or myristyl alcohol condensed with about 16 moles of ethylene oxide (EO), tridecanol condensed with about 6 to 15 moles of EO, myristyl alcohol condensed with about 10 moles of EO per mole of myristyl
20 alcohol, the condensation product of EO with a cut of coconut fatty alcohol containing a mixture of fatty alcohols with alkyl chains varying from 10 to about 14 carbon atoms in length and wherein the condensate contains either about 6 moles of EO per mole of total alcohol or about 9 moles of EO per mole of alcohol and tallow alcohol ethoxylates containing 6 EO to 11 EO per mole of alcohol.

- 25 A preferred group of the foregoing nonionic surfactants are the Neodol ethoxylates (Shell Co.), which are higher aliphatic, primary alcohol containing about 9-15 carbon atoms, such as C_{9-C11} alkanol condensed with 4 to 10 moles of ethylene oxide (Neodol 91-8 or Neodol 91-5), C₁₂₋₁₃ alkanol condensed with 6.5 moles ethylene oxide (Neodol 23-6.5), C₁₂₋₁₅ alkanol condensed with 12 moles ethylene

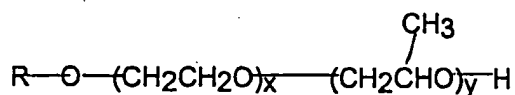
oxide (Neodol 25-12), C14-15 alkanol condensed with 13 moles ethylene oxide (Neodol 45-13), and the like. Such ethoxamers have an HLB (hydrophobic lipophilic balance) value of about 8 to 15 and give good O/W emulsification, whereas ethoxamers with HLB values below 7 contain less than 4 ethyleneoxide groups and tend to be poor emulsifiers and poor detergents.

Additional satisfactory water soluble alcohol ethylene oxide condensates are the condensation products of a secondary aliphatic alcohol containing 8 to 18 carbon atoms in a straight or branched chain configuration condensed with 5 to 30 moles of ethylene oxide. Examples of commercially available nonionic detergents of the foregoing type are C11-C15 secondary alkanol condensed with either 9 EO (Tergitol 15-S-9) or 12 EO (Tergitol 15-S-12) marketed by Union Carbide.

Another water soluble nonionic surfactants which can be utilized in this invention are an aliphatic ethoxylated/propoxylated nonionic surfactants which are depicted by the formula:



or



wherein R is a branched chain alkyl group having about 10 to about 16 carbon atoms, preferably an isotridecyl group and x and y are independently numbered from 1 to 20. A preferred ethoxylated/propoxylated nonionic surfactant is Plurafac® 300 manufactured by BASF.

As used herein and in the appended claims the term "perfume" is used in its ordinary sense to refer to and include any non-water soluble fragrant substance or mixture of substances including natural (i.e., obtained by extraction of flower, herb, blossom or plant), artificial (i.e., mixture of natural oils or oil constituents) and synthetically produced substance) odoriferous substances. Typically, perfumes are complex mixtures of blends of various organic compounds such as alcohols, aldehydes, ethers, aromatic compounds and varying amounts of essential oils (e.g.,

terpenes) such as from 0% to 80%, usually from 10% to 70% by weight, the essential oils themselves being volatile odoriferous compounds and also serving to dissolve the other components of the perfume.

In the present invention the precise composition of the perfume is of no particular consequence to cleaning performance so long as it meets the criteria of water immiscibility and having a pleasing odor. Naturally, of course, especially for cleaning compositions intended for use in the home, the perfume, as well as all other ingredients, should be cosmetically acceptable, i.e., non-toxic, hypoallergenic, etc.. The instant compositions show a marked improvement in ecotoxocity as compared to existing commercial products.

In place of the perfume in either the microemulsion composition or the all purpose hard surface cleaning composition at the same previously defined concentrations that the perfume was used in either the microemulsion or the all purpose hard surface cleaning composition one can employ an essential oil or a water insoluble hydrocarbon having 6 to 18 carbon such as a paraffin or isoparaffin.

Suitable essential oils are selected from the group consisting of:

Anethole 20/21 natural, Aniseed oil china star, Aniseed oil globe brand, Balsam (Peru), Basil oil (India), Black pepper oil, Black pepper oleoresin 40/20, Bois de Rose (Brazil) FOB, Borneol Flakes (China), Camphor oil, White, Camphor powder synthetic technical, Cananga oil (Java), Cardamom oil, Cassia oil (China), Cedarwood oil (China) BP, Cinnamon bark oil, Cinnamon leaf oil, Citronella oil, Clove bud oil, Clove leaf, Coriander (Russia), Coumarin 69°C (China), Cyclamen Aldehyde, Diphenyl oxide, Ethyl vanilin, Eucalyptol, Eucalyptus oil, Eucalyptus citriodora, Fennel oil, Geranium oil, Ginger oil, Ginger oleoresin (India), White grapefruit oil, Guaiacwood oil, Gurjun balsam, Heliotropin, Isobornyl acetate, Isolongifolene, Juniper berry oil, L-methyl acetate, Lavender oil, Lemon oil, Lemongrass oil, Lime oil distilled, Litsea Cubeba oil, Longifolene, Menthol crystals, Methyl cedryl ketone, Methyl chavicol, Methyl salicylate, Musk ambrette, Musk ketone, Musk xylol, Nutmeg oil, Orange oil, Patchouli oil, Peppermint oil, Phenyl ethyl alcohol, Pimento berry oil, Pimento leaf oil, Rosalin,

- Sandalwood oil, Sandenol, Sage oil, Clary sage, Sassafras oil, Spearmint oil, Spike lavender, Tagetes, Tea tree oil, Vanilin, Vetyver oil (Java), Wintergreen, Allocimene, ArbanexTM, Arbanol[®], Bergamot oils, Camphene, Alpha-Campholenic aldehyde, l-Carvone, Cineoles, Citral, Citronellol Terpenes, Alpha-Citronellol, Citronellyl Acetate, Citronellyl Nitrile, Para-Cymene, Dihydroanethole, Dihydrocarveol, d-Dihydrocarvone, Dihydrolinalool, Dihydromyrcene, Dihydromyrcenol, Dihydromyrcenyl Acetate, Dihydroterpineol, Dimethyloctanal, Dimethyloctanol, Dimethyloctanyl Acetate, Estragole, Ethyl-2 Methylbutyrate, Fenchol, FerniolTM, FlorilysTM, Geraniol, Geranyl Acetate, Geranyl Nitrile, GlidmintTM Mint oils, GlidoxTM, Grapefruit oils, trans-2-Hexenal, trans-2-Hexenol, cis-3-Hexenyl Isovalerate, cis-3-Hexanyl-2-methylbutyrate, Hexyl Isovalerate, Hexyl-2-methylbutyrate, Hydroxycitronellal, Ionone, Isobornyl Methylether, Linalool, Linalool Oxide, Linalyl Acetate, Menthane Hydroperoxide, l-Methyl Acetate, Methyl Hexyl Ether, Methyl-2-methylbutyrate, 2-Methylbutyl Isovalerate, Myrcene, Nerol, Neryl Acetate, 3-Octanol, 3-Octyl Acetate, Phenyl Ethyl-2-methylbutyrate, Petitgrain oil, cis-Pinane, Pinane Hydroperoxide, Pinanol, Pine Ester, Pine Needle oils, Pine oil, alpha-Pinene, beta-Pinene, alpha-Pinene Oxide, Plinol, Plinyl Acetate, Pseudo Ionone, Rhodinol, Rhodiny Acetate, Spice oils, alpha-Terpinene, gamma-Terpinene, Terpinene-4-OL, Terpeneol, Terpinolene, Terpinyl Acetate, Tetrahydrolinalool, Tetrahydrolinalyl Acetate, Tetrahydromyrcenol, Tetralol[®], Tomato oils, Vitalizair, ZestoralTM.

The instant all purpose cleaning composition contains about 0.1 wt. % to about 6 wt. %, of at least one solubilizing agent selected from the group consisting of a C₂-5 mono, dihydroxy or polyhydroxy alkanols such as ethanol, isopropanol, glycerol ethylene glycol, diethylene glycol, propylene glycol and alkali metal cumene or xylene sulfonates such as sodium cumene sulfonate and sodium xylene sulfonate and mixtures thereof. The solubilizing agents are included in order to control low temperature cloud clear properties and aide in cleaning.

The solubilizer agent which is used in the instant compositions are selected from the group consisting of PEG30 castor oil, Polysorbate 80, cocoamido propyl dimethyl

betaine, cocoamido propyl dimethyl amine oxide, Icanol TDA-8, Pluronic F127, Icanol DA-6, PEG40 castor oil and mixtures thereof.

The instant formulas explicitly exclude alkali metal silicates and alkali metal builders such as alkali metal polyphosphates, alkali metal carbonates and alkali metal phosphonates because these materials, if used in the instant composition, would cause the composition to have a high pH as well as leaving residue on the surface being cleaned.

The final essential ingredient in the inventive microemulsion or nonmicroemulsion compositions having improved interfacial tension properties is water. The proportion of water in the compositions generally is in the range of 80% to 98%, preferably 85% to 97% by weight of the cleaning composition.

In addition to the above-described essential ingredients required for the formation of the microemulsion composition, the compositions of this invention may often and preferably do contain one or more additional ingredients which serve to improve overall product performance.

One such ingredient is an inorganic or organic salt of oxide of a multivalent metal cation, particularly Mg^{++} . The metal salt or oxide provides several benefits including improved cleaning performance in dilute usage, particularly in soft water areas, and minimized amounts of perfume required to obtain the microemulsion state. Magnesium sulfate, either anhydrous or hydrated (e.g., heptahydrate), is especially preferred as the magnesium salt. Good results also have been obtained with magnesium oxide, magnesium chloride, magnesium acetate, magnesium propionate and magnesium hydroxide. These magnesium salts can be used with formulations at neutral or acidic pH since magnesium hydroxide will not precipitate at these pH levels.

Although magnesium is the preferred multivalent metal from which the salts (inclusive of the oxide and hydroxide) are formed, other polyvalent metal ions also can be used provided that their salts are nontoxic and are soluble in the aqueous phase of the system at the desired pH level.

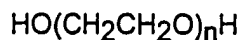
The compositions can include from 0% to 2.5%, preferably from 0.1% to 2.0% by weight of the composition of a C₈-C₂₂ fatty acid or fatty acid soap as a foam suppressant.

The addition of fatty acid or fatty acid soap provides an improvement in the
5 rinseability of the composition whether applied in neat or diluted form. Generally, however, it is necessary to increase the level of cosurfactant to maintain product stability when the fatty acid or soap is present. If more than 2.5 wt. % of a fatty acid is used in the instant compositions, the composition will become unstable at low temperatures as well as having an objectionable smell.

10 As example of the fatty acids which can be used as such or in the form of soap, mention can be made of distilled coconut oil fatty acids, "mixed vegetable" type fatty acids (e.g. high percent of saturated, mono-and/or polyunsaturated C₁₈ chains); oleic acid, stearic acid, palmitic acid, eiocosanoic acid, and the like, generally those fatty acids having from 8 to 22 carbon atoms being acceptable.

15 A proton donating agent such as a hydroxy aliphatic acid can optionally be used in the cleaning composition at a concentration of about 0 wt. % to about 5 wt. %, more preferably about 0.1 wt. % to about 4 wt. %. The hydroxy aliphatic acid used in the instant composition is selected from the group consisting of glycolic acid, salicylic acid, tartaric acid, citric acid and lactic acid and mixtures thereof.

20 A polyethylene glycol can be optionally used in the instant composition at a concentration of 0 to 6 wt. %, more preferably 0.25 wt. % to 5 wt. % and the polyethylene glycol has a molecular weight of 200 to 1,000, wherein the polyethylene glycol has the structure



25 wherein n is 4 to 25.

The liquid cleaning composition of this invention may, if desired, also contain other components either to provide additional effect or to make the product more attractive to the consumer. The following are mentioned by way of example: Colors or dyes in amounts up to 0.5% by weight; preservatives or antioxidizing agents, such as

formalin, 5-bromo-5-nitro-dioxan-1,3; 5-chloro-2-methyl-4-isothiazolin-3-one, 2,6-di-tert.butyl-p-cresol, etc., in amounts up to 2% by weight; and pH adjusting agents, such as sulfuric acid or sodium hydroxide, as needed. Furthermore, if opaque compositions are desired, up to 4% by weight of an opacifier may be added.

- 5 In final form, the instant compositions exhibit stability at reduced and increased temperatures. More specifically, such compositions remain clear and stable in the range of 5°C to 50°C, especially 10°C to 43°C. Such compositions exhibit a pH of 3 to 8.0 which is achieved by the addition of caustic soda or alkanolamide. The liquid compositions are readily pourable and exhibit a viscosity in the range of 6 to 400
10 millipascal . second (mPas.) as measured at 25°C. with a Brookfield RVT Viscometer using a #2 spindle rotating at 50 RPM.

The following examples illustrate liquid cleaning compositions of the described invention. Unless otherwise specified, all percentages are by weight. The exemplified compositions are illustrative only and do not limit the scope of the invention. Unless
15 otherwise specified, the proportions in the examples and elsewhere in the specification are by weight.

Example 1

The following compositions in wt. % were prepared by simple mixing procedure:

	A	B	Standard Formula C
Demineralized water	Bal.	Bal.	Bal.
C10-C13 alkyl linear benzene sulfonate	1.5	1.5	1.6
C9-C11 alcohol EO7.5-8:1	1.0	1.0	--
Formalin	0.2	0.2	0.2
EDTA Na4-Dehydrate	0.2	0.3	0.2
Polysorbate 80	0.45	--	--
PEG30 castor oil	--	0.24	--
Perfume	1.2	1.2	1.2
C9-C11 alcohol 7EO	--	--	3.0

	A	B	Standard Formula
pH	7.0	7.0	7.0
Appearance	clear	clear	clear
Degreasing diluted	slightly better	slightly better	standard
Degreasing neat	slightly better	slightly better	standard
Residue	parity	parity	standard

What Is Claimed:

1. A microemulsion composition comprising:
 - (a) 0.1 wt. % to 5 wt. % of a nonionic surfactant;
 - (b) 0.1 wt. % to 5 wt. % of an anionic surfactant;
 - 5 (c) 0.1 wt. % to 4 wt. % of a water insoluble hydrocarbon, essential oil or a perfume;
 - (d) 0.1 wt. % to 2 wt. % of a solubilizer; and
 - (e) the balance being water.
2. The composition of Claim 1 which further contains a salt of a multivalent
10 metal cation in an amount sufficient to provide from 0.5 to 1.5 equivalents of said cation per equivalent of said anionic detergent.
3. The composition of Claim 1 further including a fatty acid has 8 to 22 carbon atoms.
4. The composition of Claim 1 further including polyethylene glycol.
- 15 5. The composition of Claim 4 further including a hydroxy aliphatic acid.
6. The composition of Claim 1, wherein said anionic surfactant is a linear alkyl benzene sulfonate.
7. The composition of Claim 1, wherein said solubilizer is selected from the group consisting of PEG30 castor oil and Polysorbate 80.
- 20 8. The composition of Claim 7, wherein said solubilizing agent is selected from the group consisting of an alkanol, alkali metal xylene sulfonate and alkali metal cumene sulfonate and mixtures thereof.

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

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A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER IPC 7 C11D1/83 C11D3/50 C11D3/34 C11D3/20 C11D3/18 C11D1/74		
According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC		
B. FIELDS SEARCHED Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols) IPC 7 C11D		
Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched		
Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practical, search terms used) EPO-Internal, WPI Data, PAJ		
C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT		
Category *	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
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<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Further documents are listed in the continuation of box C. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Patent family members are listed in annex.		
* Special categories of cited documents: *A* document defining the general state of the art which is not considered to be of particular relevance *E* earlier document but published on or after the international filing date *L* document which may throw doubts on priority claim(s) or which is cited to establish the publication date of another citation or other special reason (as specified) *O* document referring to an oral disclosure, use, exhibition or other means *P* document published prior to the international filing date but later than the priority date claimed *T* later document published after the international filing date or priority date and not in conflict with the application but cited to understand the principle or theory underlying the invention *X* document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered novel or cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is taken alone *Y* document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is combined with one or more other such documents, such combination being obvious to a person skilled in the art *Z* document member of the same patent family		
Date of the actual completion of the international search		Date of mailing of the international search report
7 May 2003		16/05/2003
Name and mailing address of the ISA European Patent Office, P.B. 5818 Patentlaan 2 NL - 2280 HV Rijswijk Tel. (+31-70) 340-2040, Tx. 31 651 epo nl, Fax (+31-70) 340-3016		Authorized officer
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